



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,421	01/26/2004	Takashi Ooto	402954/SOEI	4716
23548 7590 09/12/2007 LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD 700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960			EXAMINER ANYIKIRE, CHIKAODILI E	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/763,421	Applicant(s) OOTO, TAKASHI	
	Examiner Chikaodili E. Anyikire	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2004082004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is responsive to application number (10763421) filed on January 26, 2004. Claims 1-27 are pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cole (US 6,475,087).

As per claim 1, Cole discloses a gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet (Fig 4, element 22; Col 7 Ln 52-59);

a door openably and closably supported by the cabinet (Fig 4, element 34; Col 7 Ln 60-65);

a liquid crystal display unit which is supported by the door and provides an image associated with a game (Fig 4, element 190; Col 8 Ln 34-44);

a transparent member which is supported by the door (Fig 4, element 66; Col 8 Ln 60-65); and

a buffer provided between the liquid crystal display unit and the door (Fig 5, element 74; Col 8 Ln 20-44).

As per claim 2, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the transparent member is a glass plate or a touch panel (Fig 4, element 66; Col 8 Ln 34-44).

As per claim 3, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of buffers each being identical with the buffer are provided (Fig 5, element 74; Col 8 Ln 19-33).

As per claim 4, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the door (Fig 4, element 34) includes a frame supporting the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 4, element 190) through the buffer (Fig 4, 74; Col 8 Ln 9-44), the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 4, element 190) is supported by the frame at a back thereof (Col 7 Ln 52- Col 8 Ln 34), and

the buffer (Fig 4, element 74) supports the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 4, element 190) and the transparent member (Fig 4, element 66) keeping a distance therebetween (Col 8 Ln 8-44).

As per claim 5, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the buffer has a first groove in which the liquid crystal display unit is inserted and a second groove distant from the first groove in which the transparent member is inserted (Fig 3, elements 62-64; Col 8 Ln 26-54; the prior art discloses supports for the window and display, which would holds the window and display).

As per claim 6, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 4,

wherein the door (Fig 4, element 34) further includes a cover being supported by the frame, the cover has an opening at a center thereof (Col 7 Ln 60- Col 8 Ln 34),

a front of the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) is exposed from the opening through the transparent member (Col 8 Ln 8-55), and

a peripheral portion of the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) is covered by the cover at the front (Fig 4, element 66) thereof (Col 8 Ln 8-55).

As per claim 7, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein the frame has a recess in which the liquid crystal display unit held by the buffer is set (Fig 4 and 5; Col 8 Ln 8-55).

As per claim 8, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the door (Fig 4, element 34) includes a frame supporting the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) through the buffer (Fig 4, element 74; Col 8 Ln 9-44),

the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) is supported by the frame at a back thereof (Col 7 Ln 52 Col 8 Ln 34) and

the buffer (Fig 4, element 74) is in contact with the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) and the frame (Col 8 Ln 8-44).

As per claim 9, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein an end face of the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) has a hollow extending in a direction perpendicular to the end face (Col 8 Ln 6-65), and the buffer (Fig 5, element 74) has a projection of which shape corresponds to a shape of the hollow (Col 8 Ln 4-55); and

the projection is inserted in the hollow (Col 8 Ln 5-44).

Regarding claim 10, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6 are applicable for claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7 are applicable for claim 11.

As per claim 12, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein the transparent member (Fig 4, element 66) has at least one corner, and the gaming machine further comprising a second buffer which covers the corner of the transparent member (Figs 4 and 5; Col 7 Ln 60 – Col 8 Ln 55).

Regarding claim 13, argument analogous to those presented for claim 8 applicable for claim 13.

Regarding claim 14, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7 are applicable for claim 14.

As per claim 15, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 13, wherein the frame has a hole in which the buffer is set (Col 8 Ln 8-55).

Regarding claim 16, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6 are applicable for claim 16.

Regarding claim 17, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 12 are applicable for claim 17.

Regarding claim, 18, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 13 are applicable for claim 18.

As per claim 19, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 18, wherein the projection has a holding portion for holding the buffer, and the buffer is held by the holding portion (Fig 3, elements 62-64; Col 8 Ln 26-54; the prior art discloses supports for the window and display, which would holds the window and display).

As per claim 20, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 19, wherein the holding portion includes a cutout provided at a tip of the projection (Col 8 Ln 8-55),

the buffer (Fig 5, element 74) includes a groove which is shaped in such a way that the width of part of the buffer is equal to the width of the cutout and the width of the groove corresponds to the thickness of the projection (Col 8 Ln 5-44), and

the holding portion is set in the groove of the buffer (Fig 3, elements 62-64; Col 8 Ln 26-54; the prior art discloses supports for the window and display, which would holds the window and display).

As per claim 21, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 18, wherein the frame includes an outer frame and an inner frame which is fixed to the outer frame; and the buffer is fixed to the inner frame (Figs 4 and 5; Col 8 44-65).

Regarding claim 22, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6 are applicable for claim 22.

As per claim 23, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the door (Fig 4, element 34) includes a frame in which the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) is set from a back thereof, and a cover being supported by the frame and having an opening at a center thereof (Col 8 Ln 5-44),

the display unit (Fig 5, element 190) is exposed from the opening through the transparent member (Fig 5, 74; Col 8 Ln 5-44),

the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) has at least one projection on an end face thereof, the projection projects in a direction perpendicular to the end face (Col 8 Ln 5-44),

the buffer holds the projection (Fig 3, elements 62-64; Col 8 Ln 26-54; the prior art discloses supports for the window and display, which would hold the window and display), and

the cover covers a peripheral portion of the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) and supports the liquid crystal display unit (Fig 5, element 190) through the buffer (Fig 5, 74; Col 8 Ln 8-55).

Regarding claim 24, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 19 are applicable for claim 24.

As per claim 25, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 24, wherein the holding portion includes a cutout provided at a tip of the projection (Fig 5, element 74; Col 8 Ln 5-65),

the buffer includes a groove which is shaped in such a way that the width of part of the buffer is equal to the width of the cutout and the width of the groove corresponds to the thickness of the projection, and the holding portion is set in the groove of the buffer (Fig 3, elements 62-64; Col 8 Ln 26-54; the prior art discloses supports for the window and display, which would hold the window and display).

Art Unit: 2621

As per claim 26, Cole discloses the gaming machine according to claim 23, further comprising a sealing member, wherein the sealing member is in intimate contact with the peripheral portion of the transparent member and the cover (Col 7 Ln 52 – Col 8 Ln 33).

Conclusion

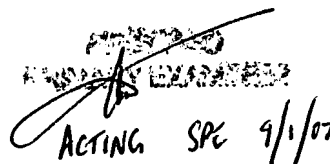
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chikaodili E. Anyikire whose telephone number is (571) 270-1445. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 5 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272 - 7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CEA



ACTING SPE 9/1/07